THE STATE OF TEXAS
COUNTY OF HUTCHINSON

On this 14th day of July 2025, A.D., the Commissioners' Court met in a Regular Session with the following members present to wit:

Cindy Irwin	County Judge
Gary Alexander	Commissioner Precinct #1
Dwight Kirksey	Commissioner Precinct #2
Ben Bentley	Commissioner Precinct #3
Chris Prock	Commissioner Precinct #4
Jenny Ligon	Deputy County Clerk & Ex-Officio Clerk of Commissioners Court

AGENDA

CALL TO ORDER FOR REGULAR MEETING, PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE AND INVOCATION

Judge Irwin called the meeting to order at 9:30 a.m. Ben Bentley led the pledge and prayer.

PUBLIC COMMENT; 5 MINUTES PER PERSON (WITH SIGNED PARTICIPATION FORM)

Helen Fox.... She is a resident of Lake Meredith HOA and sees no help from the County. She stated that she understands she is a part of an HOA however pays County taxes with no benefit. She would like to consider what the County can do for them as they do pay taxes.

Kelly Riddle.... She is a resident of Lake Meredith HOA. The roads are private in their HOA and so they get no help. She is wondering if the County helps any other HOA's such as Double Diamond. Also is curious about why it takes so long for the County to take back properties with back taxes which would help to clean up the area and get new people in.

CONSENT AGENDA

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MINUTES FROM PREVIOUS COMMISSIONERS' COURT MEETING

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE COUNTY AUDITOR'S TABULATED REPORT TO COMMISSIONERS COURT PURSUANT TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT CODE 114.024

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYMENT OF BILLS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE PAYROLL

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DISPOSAL OF OBSOLETE OFFICE EQUIPMENT AS REQUESTED BY DEPARTMENTS

ACCEPT CERTIFICATES OF COMPLETION FROM ELECTED OR APPOINTED OFFICIALS

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REPORTS FROM ELECTED/APPOINTED OFFICIALS REQUIRED BY STATE LGC 114.044

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve Consent Agenda Items as presented including the disposal of property excluding the wooden chairs for a decision later, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Reports have been made part of the minutes.

REGULAR AGENDA

INTRODUCTION BY COUNTY ATTORNEY, CRAIG JONES, OF SUMMER LAW CLERK ASA HENSON

Craig Jones, County Attorney, introduced Asa Henson who has completed his first year at Baylor Law.

PRESENTATION BY TAC WELLNESS COORDINATOR, STACEY BRUINGTON

Stacey Bruington, TAC Wellness Coordinator, presented Judge Irwin and Shevon Watson the Lifetime Achievement Award for TAC Healthy County.

UPDATE AND POTENTIAL CHANGES TO TAX CERTIFIED VALUES FROM TREY GILLMAN, HUTCHINSON COUNTY APPRAISAL DISTRICT

Trey Gillman, Appraisal District, reported on 2 Senate Bills from the latest legislative session that will be voted on in November 2025. One is increasing the over 65 Homestead Exemption required for taxation by a school district from $100,000 to $140,000. Also increases the under 65 Homestead Exemption required for taxation by a school district from $10,000 to $60,000. The other will affect Business Personal Property in 2026 if it passes, they aim to increase the personal property tax exemption from $2,500 to $125,000. This could make a 13–14-million-dollar difference. When he ran this for the county it went from 500 items to 90 that we tax. It did not affect the minerals that much due to being large accounts.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE CAMP MEREDITHVILLE, LLC REQUEST FOR LATE HOURS TO AUTHORIZE THE SALE OF MIXED BEVERAGES BETWEEN MIDNIGHT AND 2:00 AM

Brant Campbell, owner of Camp Meredithville, LLC reported TABC requires his establishment to be closed by midnight on weekdays and 1 a.m. on Saturday. He is interested in a late hour certificate. He would like to request this as his patrons leave his establishment and move forward to a bar in the city limits which is open until 2 a.m. He does employee a bouncer on Friday and Saturday nights for safety and employs 3 bartenders. Discussion was made. Dwight Kirksey reported this was also requested in 1993 as well as twice in 2015 in which all did not pass.

No motion is made.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH OPPORTUNITIES INC.

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LIBRARY STAFF TAKING THEIR FLOATING HOLIDAY ON NOVEMBER 26, 2025

Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ANNUAL FINANCIAL REPORT PREPARED BY DOSHIER, PICKENS & FRANCIS LLC FOR FISCAL YEAR ENDING SEPTEMBER 30, 2024

Lesha Krieg, County Auditor, presented the report. Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Report is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE THE RENEWAL OF AUTO AND GENERAL LIABILITY INSURANCE WITH TEXAS ASSOCIATION OF COUNTIES FOR THE POLICY PERIOD OF 10/1/2025-10/1/2026

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported this renewal was due the first of July but they gave her an extension. Updates and changes regarding full coverage and liability have been made. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Renewal is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE CHANGING TO US BANK FOR COUNTY CREDIT CARDS

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported the State of Texas did not renew their contract with Citi Bank and has changed to US Bank. The contract ends at the end of the fiscal year, August 31, with a 90-day lapse period, however we should have the new cards prior to that. Gary Alexander made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH HANSFORD COUNTY

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE RETAINING OR DISPOSING OF THE TOTALED SHERIFF DEPARTMENT 2024 FORD EXPLORER

Lesha Krieg, Auditor, reported we have two options, retain the vehicle or release the vehicle. The bids are part of the total loss condition report from TAC and the adjustor. These would need to be looked into further. Dwight Kirksey made a motion to table this agenda item until further notice, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Report is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE INTERLOCAL AGREEMENT WITH REGIONAL PUBLIC DEFENDERS OFFICE

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Agreement is made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE RESOLUTION OPPOSING PROHIBITION OF TAXPAYER-FUNDED LOBBYING

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Gary Alexander. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Resolution is made part of the minutes.

UPDATE ON ARP GRANT PROJECTS

Commissioner Bentley reported the lights for the outside parking at the Stinnett Annex will be finished this week. Chiller update, something was wrong with one of the pumps which was under warranty, waiting on the new pump. The generator is scheduled.

Commissioner Prock reported one more thing to do at the Borger Library and it will be complete. It looks good.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE BURN BAN OR RESCIND BURN BAN

Alan Wells, EMC, reported that the drought index is minimum 17 to max 234. No action taken at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE REQUESTS FOR USE OF CLUBROOMS AT BORGER LIBRARY OR FRITCH

Chris Prock submitted a schedule through 8/17/2025 for the Borger Library Clubroom.

Dwight Kirksey had no requests for the Fritch Library Clubroom.
Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Dwight Kirksey. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE LINE ITEM CHANGES, TRANSFERS, AND/OR BUDGET AMENDMENTS

Lesha Krieg, Auditor reported a correction to the previous Budget Amendment Order discussed 6/23/2025, the description for the library donation was incorrect. Ms. Krieg also presented the current Budget Amendments and line item transfers including moving Contingency Funds to the Sheriff's Squad Car line item for purchase of the replacement for the totaled vehicle. Chris Prock made a motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Corrected Order and Order are made part of these minutes.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE ADVERTISING, OPENING, ACCEPTING OR AWARDING BIDS

None at this time.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE DONATIONS TO HUTCHINSON COUNTY

None at this time.

DISCUSSION OF COUNTY JUDGES' AND COMMISSIONERS' PRECINCTS DAILY OPERATIONS

Commissioner Alexander stated the air conditioning is up and running in Juvenile Probation Office for now.

Commissioner Bentley stated they will be doing the seal coating on the paving project before long at the Stinnett Annex.

Commissioner Kirksey stated Judge Ford, and he has talked with great resources regarding the nuisance complaints they have had. He has been working on this sporadically every week and she provided a great resource for him.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE SALE OF STRUCK OFF TAX PROPERTIES AND TAX DEEDS

Chris Prock made a motion to approve Jose Diaz Tax Deed (R15898) in the amount of $2,550.00, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Ben Bentley made a motion to approve Mangwenya LLC Tax Deed (R3466) in the amount of $700.00, seconded by Chris Prock. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously.

Double Diamond Property Owners Association submitted an offer of $250.00 for Lot 29, Unit 3, Double Diamond Estate, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $400.00.

Double Diamond Property Owners Association submitted an offer of $250.00 for Lot 125, Unit 2, Double Diamond Estate, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $710.00.

Double Diamond Property Owners Association submitted an offer of $250.00 for Lot 21, Unit 3, Double Diamond Estate, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $400.00.

Double Diamond Property Owners Association submitted an offer of $250.00 for Lot 25, Unit 3, Double Diamond Estate, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $400.00.

Double Diamond Property Owners Association submitted an offer of $250.00 for Lot 138, Unit 2, Double Diamond Estate, Hutchinson County, Texas. The appraised value is $710.00.

Dwight Kirksey made a motion to approve all the bids from Double Diamond Property Owners Association, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Offers have been made part of the minutes.

BUDGET WORKSHOP FOR 2025-2026 BUDGET

County Attorney budget. Craig Jones, County Attorney, reported overall his budget has gone down a little. Asked Commissioners if they have any questions. No questions.

District Attorney budget. Mark Snider, District Attorney, requested the Grand Jury Testimony be added back as a line item as he may need this. Judge Irwin responded, stating that they had thought about this and the plan would be to pull it out of the County's Contingency. Mr. Snider agreed with this plan.

County Judge budget. Judge Cindy Irwin, County Judge, reported she has reduced part time help to $2500 as she is not having as many dockets. Reduced Mental Health. Court Reporter line item is up a little in anticipation of additional Jury Trials. Ms. Krieg asked if we could lower this to $1,000 and if it does come up then we can move from the County's Contingency, Judge Irwin agreed. Commissioner Kirksey suggested office supplies be reduced to $2,000, Judge Irwin agreed. Commissioner Prock mentioned looking at everyone's Computer Expense as a whole. Discussion was had on each department reaching out to IT prior to budget to see what is needed and or a computer rotation program for the future. Judge Irwin also requested an additional $1585 for her Bond line item due to new legislation beginning Sept 1 increasing her bond amount to $500,000 this will get her through her term. The new 4 year term bond cost will be $6,212.50.

Justice of the Peace, Pct. 1 budget. Leslie Ford, JP 1, requested an increase in postage and office supplies as printer cartridges have become quite expensive. They have also had many requests for jury trials resulting in postage going up.

Constable, Pct. 1 budget. Roman Alejandro, Constable, Pct. 1, requested his training line item be moved back up to the previous amount as he plans on attending training. The decision was made to leave this line item as is for now. Ms. Krieg reported she did a fuel analysis which is based on a $3.00 gallon rate and his gas is significantly lower than what is budgeted, so she recommended to lower that line item. The Court would like to leave this line item at $500.00.

Constable, Pct. 2 budget. Angelica Hartranft, Constable, Pct. 2, requested an increase in her salary, which she has been talking about the last few years. She is also requesting a clerk position. She stated that if she is granted a clerk position, she will not be asking for a raise however if the position is not approved then she will still be requesting her salary increase. Discussion was made regarding the new clerk position. Ms. Krieg said her fuel analysis came to about $1900. Commissioner Kirksey recommends dropping this to $2000 instead of $3000.

316th District Court budget. Judge Mosley, District Judge, reported he is happy with the recommended budget as presented. Charlie Keys, Bailiff, will be retiring at the end of August and he will be reducing that salary to start at $60,000.

84th District Court budget. Judge Brancheau, District Judge, reported he accepts the recommended budget as presented.

Emergency Management/Fire budget. Alan Wells, EMC, reported he has not made a lot of changes to the recommended budget. He stated he does not disagree with reducing supplies. The Training and Education line item is increased due to putting in his application and training for license to be the Fire Marshall. Modifications to the Sirens/Equip. & Main. line item is listed as $7,700. However, Sirens/Equip & Maint. line item currently has sirens and PanCom radio system, he would like to move PanCom to the Equipment line item to keep the siren system separate. Sirens/Equip. & Maint. line item would have $3413 Software, $525 Msg, $750 Station Maint. (Bugbee, Meadowlark, Golf Course, Control Station), and may have to add Sanford back into the County for an additional $750. Equipment line item would have $3500 for PanCom System, $3,360 Radio Mgmt, SmartConnect, $3266 Active911 and tower camera replacements if needed.

LEPC line item will be discussed at the Aug 19th LEPC meeting and the County will pay the $3,000 if requested. Ms. Krieg stated on his fuel analysis it came to about $2000. The Court recommended leaving fuel as budgeted at $2,500 on recommended budget.

Road & Bridge budget. Duane Chisholm, R&B Superintendent, reported he has two line items he has asked to make changes to by increasing. One is Repairs, Parts and Supplies he is continually behind on this line item. He projects it to go over this year as costs have gone up as well as more machines are becoming out of warranty. The other change is Equipment as he has a front-end loader he needs replaced. He has a 98 model which needs replacement. Commissioner Bentley asked if he has a rotation program in writing. Mr. Chisholm stated no but he feels this machine is about to begin giving him problems. Fuel analysis from Ms. Krieg is $129,000 being used. Seal coat is done with grant money. Fuel money depends on snowstorms, fires, etc. Mr. Chisholm stated no big projects are planned but this could always change. Commissioner Bentley stated the mileage is less every year which is why he is asking for a rotation program. Judge Irwin states we will change the fuel to $130,000 for now.

CONSIDER AND/OR APPROVE MOTION TO ADJOURN

Gary Alexander made the motion to approve the above stated agenda item, seconded by Ben Bentley. All voted aye and the motion carried unanimously. Adjourn 11:49 a.m.

CINDY IRWIN – COUNTY JUDGE

ATTEST:

JENNY LIGON– DEPUTY COUNTY CLERK